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Forty-seventh session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 89 (a)

TRAINING AND RESEARCH: UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Miss Maymouna Diop (Senegal), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.60/Rev.1

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 46/180 of 19 December 1991,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General 1/ and of the Acting Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, 2/ and taking into account the statements made before the Second Committee on the Institute,

Taking note of the steps taken by the Secretary-General to restructure the Institute,

Recognizing the continuing importance and relevance of the interdisciplinary training functions within the United Nations system and the need to respond to the new challenges facing the United Nations and to meet the growing training requirements of Member States and staff in the United Nations system,

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1/ A/47/458.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 14 (A/47/14).

Recognizing that, in the context of the ongoing restructuring of the United Nations, the overall capacity of the United Nations in research and data gathering should be enhanced,

Acknowledging that a restructured Institute should continue to develop a more structured relationship with national and international institutions,

Reaffirming that the Institute should focus on providing training programmes and research activities related to training,

1. Decides that, in accordance with the recommendations of the Secretary-General, 3/ the building of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research will be immediately transferred to the United Nations in return for the cancellation of the debt of the Institute and coverage of its financial obligations for 1992;

2. Also decides that, in accordance with the recommendations of the high-level consultant, as approved by the Board of Trustees of the Institute and the Secretary-General in his report, the headquarters of the Institute will be transferred to Geneva, and requests the Secretary-General to designate a liaison officer to organize and coordinate the existing training programmes and research activities relating to training in New York within existing resources, drawing as appropriate on the services of senior fellows who shall be funded from voluntary contributions to the Institute;

3. Further decides that, as of 1 January 1993, the funding of all the Institute's administrative budget and training programmes will be covered from voluntary contributions, donations, special-purpose grants and executing agency overheads;

4. Invites the international community to make voluntary contributions to the restructured Institute, in particular to its General Fund so as to assure its viability;

5. Similarly decides that the cost of training programmes made at the specific request of Member States of the United Nations and other United Nations organs and specialized agencies should be arranged by the requesting parties;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to explore further closer cooperation between the Institute and other qualified national and international institutions including, inter alia, the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organisation at Turin, in order to enable the United Nations system to respond to the increasing training needs at both the international and national levels in the most cost-effective manner and in the best interest of the participating member States;

3/ A/47/458, sect. III.

7. Invites the Secretary-General, in the context of the ongoing restructuring process of the United Nations, to continue his work on a comprehensive review of the research capacity of the United Nations system and to make proposals for the enhancement of that capacity, including the possibility of transferring the non-training related research functions of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research to other appropriate United Nations bodies such as the United Nations University and the possibility of promoting cooperation mechanisms with other relevant national and international research institutes;

8. Invites the Institute to improve its cooperation with relevant national, regional and international institutions which can contribute to fulfilling its training and related research needs in the field of international relations and in response to the new challenges facing the United Nations;

9. Urges the Institute to improve its collaboration with the United Nations and its funds and programmes;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to it at its forty-eighth session a report on the above-mentioned arrangements.

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OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Miss Maymouna Diop (Senegal), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolutions A/C.2/47/L.21 and L.22

Triennial policy review of the operational activities of the United Nations development system

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 44/211 of 22 December 1989 and 46/219 of 20 December 1991 and other relevant resolutions,

Concerned that the full and coordinated implementation of resolution 44/211 has not been achieved by the United Nations system,

Noting with concern that while some progress has been made in implementing parts of its resolution 44/211, both by individual organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and by coordination mechanisms of the system, many of the principles contained in that resolution have still to be implemented,

Urging developed countries, in particular those countries whose overall performance is not commensurate with their capacity, taking into account established official development assistance targets, including targets established at the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and present levels of contribution, to substantially increase their official development assistance, including contributions to the operational activities of the United Nations system,

Stressing that national plans and priorities constitute the only viable frame of reference for the national programming of operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

Stressing further that the fundamental characteristic of the operational activities of the United Nations system should be, inter alia, their universal, voluntary and grant nature, neutrality and multilateralism, and the ability to respond to the needs of the developing countries in a flexible manner, and that the operational activities of the United Nations system are carried out for the benefit of the developing countries, at the request of those countries and in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development,

Reaffirming further that the United Nations development system has a critical and unique role to play in enabling developing countries to take a lead role in the management of their own development process,

Stressing also that in order to achieve the above objective, processes and procedures of the United Nations system should be streamlined and rationalized, especially in the interrelated areas of programming, execution, decentralization, monitoring and evaluation, thus making the United Nations system more relevant and responsive to the national plans, priorities and objectives of developing countries, and more efficient in its delivery systems,

Emphasizing the importance it attaches to a more effective and coherent coordinated approach by the United Nations system to the needs of recipient countries, particularly at the field level,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities of the United Nations system; 1/

2. Reaffirms its resolution 44/211 and stresses the need to implement all the elements of that resolution in a coherent manner, keeping in mind their interlinkages;

3. Stresses the need for a substantial increase in resources for operational activities for development on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, commensurate with the increasing needs of developing countries;

4. Reaffirms the need for priority allocation of scarce grant resources to programmes and projects in low-income countries, particularly the least developed countries;

5. Stresses the need for an overall improvement of the effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations development system in delivering its assistance;

1/ A/47/419 and addenda.

6. Stresses further that, in the context of the administrative reform of the United Nations Secretariat and the restructuring and revitalization of the intergovernmental process, the mandates of the separate sectoral and specialized entities, funds, programmes and specialized agencies should be respected and enhanced, taking into account their complementarities;

7. Emphasizes that the recipient Government has primary responsibility for coordinating, on the basis of national strategies and priorities, all types of external assistance, including that provided by multilateral organizations, in order effectively to integrate the assistance into its development process;

8. Reaffirms that the multisectoral, sectoral and/or subsectoral strategies prepared by the recipient countries, on the basis of priorities identified by them, should provide a coherent and coordinated programme framework for all external assistance;

9. Stresses that, based on the priorities and plans of recipient countries, and in order to ensure the effective integration of assistance provided by the United Nations system in the development process of countries, with enhanced accountability, and to facilitate the assessment and evaluation of the impact and sustainability of that assistance, a country strategy note should be formulated by interested recipient Governments with the assistance of and in cooperation with the United Nations system under the leadership of the resident coordinator in all recipient countries where the Government so chooses, taking into account the following:

(a) The country strategy note should outline the contribution the United Nations development system could make to respond to the requirements identified by recipient countries in their plans, strategies and priorities;

(b) The contribution of the United Nations system to the country strategy note should be formulated under the leadership of the resident coordinator, in order to promote greater coordination and cooperation at the field level;

(c) The country strategy note should be transmitted to the governing body of each funding agency as a reference for the consideration of its specific country programme;

(d) The specific activities of each funding organization of the United Nations system, within the broad framework of the country strategy note, should be outlined in a specific country programme prepared by the recipient Government with the assistance of the funding agencies;

10. Reaffirms that, within the context of the Joint Consultative Group on Policies, the funding organizations of the United Nations system, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund, the World Food Programme and the International

Fund for Agricultural Development and the funds administered by the United Nations Development Programme should harmonize their cycles and, where appropriate, adapt them to national budget cycles, plans and strategies;

11. Decides that assistance should be based on an agreed division of responsibility among the funding agencies, under the coordination of the Government, in order to integrate their response into the development needs of recipient countries;

12. Takes note of decision 92/23 of 26 May 1992 and of all other relevant decisions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme regarding the programme approach;

13. Requests the Secretary-General to promote an early agreement on a common interpretation of the programme approach, including an effective methodology for evaluation, to be applied by the United Nations system, with due regard to country-specific circumstances and to report thereon to the Economic and Social Council at its 1993 substantive session;

14. Requests the Economic and Social Council to examine the above-mentioned report at its 1993 substantive session and to evaluate whether effective and coordinated actions are being taken on the matter by the United Nations development system;

15. Reiterates that national execution should be the norm for programmes and projects supported by the United Nations system, taking into account the needs and capacities of recipient countries;

16. Also reiterates the principal responsibility of recipient countries in determining their capacity to execute programmes and projects supported by the United Nations system;

17. Stresses the need for the United Nations system to strengthen its capacity to provide policy and technical support and advice at the request of recipient countries;

18. Also stresses the urgent need for the United Nations system to give increased priority to assisting recipient countries in building and/or enhancing the necessary capacity to undertake national execution, including the provision of support services, as required, at the field level;

19. Recognizes the important role of the specialized agencies of the United Nations system within their specific areas of competence and the need for a clear division of labour in facilitating and providing the necessary technical and substantive expertise for programmes and projects supported by the United Nations system;

20. Requests the Economic and Social Council, through the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its session in 1993, to consider the report by the Secretary-General on the comprehensive policy review of

operational activities of the United Nations system as a means to examine the contribution of the operational activities of the United Nations system to the enhancement of the national capacities of developing countries in the field of science and technology, and to make appropriate recommendations thereon;

21. Takes note of decision 92/22 of 26 May 1992 and of all other relevant decisions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme regarding the definition of programme/project execution and implementation concepts;

22. Requests the Secretary-General to promote an early agreement on a common interpretation of national execution to be applied by the United Nations system and to report thereon to the Economic and Social Council at its 1993 substantive session;

23. Requests also the Economic and Social Council to examine the above-mentioned report at its 1993 substantive session, and to evaluate whether effective and coordinated actions are being taken on the matter by the United Nations development system;

24. Decides that, in order to enhance the coherence in programming and resource utilization, programme development and component approval, capacity and authority should be further decentralized to the field offices, providing them with the necessary technical and substantive expertise;

25. Urges strongly, in this context, that governing bodies of all funds, programmes and agencies should ensure that the prescribed limits on field level authority for cancelling, modifying and adding activities within approved programmes and shifting resources within approved budget lines of individual components of a programme and among components of a programme, with the approval of national authorities, should be expanded to become equal and uniform, to the maximum extent possible, in the context of enhanced accountability;

26. Stresses that the United Nations system should use, to the fullest extent possible, available national expertise and indigenous technologies;

27. Stresses also that the procurement of expertise and equipment and the placing of fellowships should be decentralized to the country level to the maximum extent possible to avoid delays, reflect national needs and ensure cost-effectiveness and stresses further that, in this context, the procurement of expertise and equipment should be decentralized, with due regard to the principles of international competitive bidding, while acknowledging the commitment to increase procurement from developing countries substantially and the need for effective accountability mechanisms;

28. Acknowledges the commitment to procurement from underutilized major donor countries in accordance with the principles of international competitive bidding;

29. Stresses that common formats, rules and procedures are critical to meet the requirements of the shift to a programme approach, and that all formats, rules and procedures and periodicity of reports should be simplified and harmonized to promote national capacity-building, so as to assist the Government to integrate external assistance from different sources into its development process;

30. Decides that the financial and programme auditing capacity and accounting systems of recipient Governments should be strengthened, with assistance from the United Nations system, as requested by Governments;

31. Decides also that, within the context of the programme approach, formats designed for programme, programme component and project development, monitoring and evaluation should take into account interrelated and cross-sectoral linkages between individual strategies of recipient countries and between the individual components of a strategy;

32. Decides further that budgeting and related rules, procdures, processes and formats should be redefined to become, within the context of the sustainability of United Nations system supported programmes and their components and projects, output-, impact- or performance-oriented rather than input- or supply-oriented, and that, accordingly, evaluation and monitoring systems should be reoriented, while also strengthening the use of evaluation and monitoring findings, thereby creating a feedback system;

33. Requests inter-agency coordination mechanisms, in particular the Joint Consultative Group on Policies, to give priority to simplifying, harmonizing and increasing the transparency of their procedures relating to programme component and project formulation, appraisal, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, taking into account the need to focus on the impact and sustainability of projects and programmes and to reach agreement on a common United Nations system-wide manual for such procedures by 1 July 1994;

34. Further requests the members of inter-agency coordination mechanisms, in particular the Joint Consultative Group on Policies, to put in place as soon as possible, and no later than 1 January 1995, measures to enhance accountability at the field level, including effective harmonized programme monitoring, evaluation and management audit systems;

35. Stresses the need for funds and programmes to take into account the provisions of the General Assembly on auditing standards;

36. Stresses that the strengthened resident coordinator function is necessary to assist the Government in mobilizing technical expertise both from inside and outside the United Nations system and ensuring coordination at the country level through, inter alia, the country strategy note, in order to respond to national needs and priorities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner and to maximize the impact of the United Nations system on the development process;

37. Stresses further that in order to achieve the above objective, particular attention should be paid in the selection of the resident coordinators to quality, relevant wide development experience, managerial and team-building skills, and the capacity to integrate individual components and strategies into the overall development process of the country, as well as to develop effective and coherent coordination by the United Nations system as a whole;

38. Emphasizes that an effectively functioning resident coordinator system will be dependent on a number of factors, including the following:

(a) The separate funds, programmes and specialized agencies must make a commitment to work together to integrate assistance provided by the United Nations system in the development process of the recipient countries in a fully coordinated manner;

(b) The United Nations system at the country level should be tailored, taking into account the views of the recipient Government, to the country's specific developmental needs in such a way that they correspond to ongoing and projected cooperation programmes rather than to the institutional structure of the United Nations;

(c) The separate identities and, where appropriate, representation of funds and programmes at the country level should be ensured in the framework of a clear and improved division of labour, in accordance with their mandates;

(d) The resident coordinator should, if required, establish close cooperation with the funds, programmes and agencies at the regional and subregional level, in order to respond to specific requests by recipient Governments;

(e) In strengthening the resident coordinator system, the creation of an additional bureaucratic layer should be avoided;

39. Requests the Secretary-General, with due regard to resolutions 34/213 and 46/182 and paragraph 38 above of the present resolution, to strengthen the resident coordinator system with the aim of:

(a) Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the United Nations system at the field level, through a fully coordinated multidisciplinary approach to the needs of recipient countries under the leadership of the resident coordinator, bearing in mind the complementarity of the system and the need for a division of labour within the respective spheres of competence of individual specialized agencies, programmes and funds;

(b) Establishing, in consultation with recipient Governments, a clearer division of responsibilities for the resident coordinator and individual funds, programmes and specialized agencies;

(c) Ensuring that, in the context of the country strategy note, where in place, representatives of the members of the Joint Consultative Group on Policies at the field level and, in due course, of all funds, programmes and specialized agencies with field operations inform, consult with and take account of any views of the resident coordinator in the context of major programming exercises before reporting to their headquarters on major programming and policy issues;

(d) Widening the pool of qualified development professionals eligible for appointment as United Nations Development Programme resident representatives/resident coordinators to the members of the Joint Consultative Group on Policies, together with increased transparency in the selection process;

(e) Encouraging individual specialized agencies at the field level to participate fully in all aspects of the resident coordinator system;

(f) Defining the responsibility of the relevant inter-agency coordination mechanisms, in particular the Joint Consultative Group on Policies, in close consultation with the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, for providing clear guidance to resident coordinators and for ensuring that they are provided with the necessary support both at the headquarters level and in the field;

(g) Enhancing the responsibility and authority of the resident coordinator for the planning and coordination of programmes as well as allowing him/her to propose, in full consultation with the Government, to the heads of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies, the amendment of country programmes and major projects and programmes, where required, to bring them into line with the country strategy note;

40. Calls upon resident coordinators to take the necessary steps, in those countries where the scale of the activities of the United Nations and the number of funds and agencies so justify, to establish, in consultation with host Governments, an appropriate field-level committee, which will normally comprise all resident United Nations system representatives and which, under the leadership of the resident coordinator, will serve as a United Nations coordinating mechanism in the countries concerned;

41. Calls for the above coordinating mechanism, in consultation with the host Government, to undertake advisory functions including, inter alia, the provision of guidance and advice on proposed funding agency programmes, the review of agency sector strategies and evaluations and the investigation of specific problems and issues requiring a coordinated response;

42. Welcomes the decision of the Joint Consultative Group on Policies to set a target for increasing the number of common premises, while emphasizing that this should be achieved in cooperation with host Governments in a way that increases efficiency through, inter alia, consolidation of administrative infrastructures of organizations concerned, and does not increase the costs for the United Nations system or for developing countries;

43. Emphasizes the necessity of continuing to develop common innovative and integrated system-wide training programmes, at Headquarters and especially at the field level, while taking into account the use of regional cooperation arrangements, for government officials and other nationals as well as for the staff of the United Nations system field offices to facilitate the shift from the project to the programme approach and to promote effective and innovative execution modalities;

44. Also emphasizes that these training programmes should be joint and common, include on-the-job training, involve the establishment of a training capacity internal to each country, including a scheme for the training of national trainers and be provided on a continuous basis as an integral function of the United Nations system field office structure;

45. Stresses that these training programmes should aim to develop capacities, especially in the areas of the programme approach, national execution, programme accountability and financial audit, support costs and evaluation and monitoring;

46. Urges the United Nations system to give appropriate attention to establishing and maintaining national institutional expertise, particularly in the areas mentioned in operative paragraph 45 above, inter alia, through the increased participation of national staff and members of relevant national institutions in training programmes;

47. Reaffirms the importance of human development, including human resources development, and requests the United Nations development system to strengthen the support given by its operational activities, at the request of recipient countries, to sectors vital to human development;

48. Recognizes that the United Nations system has a role to play in assisting countries undergoing deep economic and social reforms;

49. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the operational activities of the United Nations development system carried out in new recipient countries are undertaken from the outset on the basis of an integrated, unified, cost-effective and innovative approach to development cooperation and presence in the countries concerned and to ensure effective support to them, while ensuring that such support is not to the detriment of existing programmes for developing countries;

50. Stresses the need for the Economic and Social Council to examine the operational activities of the United Nations system with a view to ensuring the implementation of the present resolution and making recommendations thereon;

51. Calls upon the governing bodies of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system to take appropriate action for the full implementation of the present resolution, and requests the

executive heads of these funds, programmes and specialized agencies to submit a yearly progress report to their governing bodies on measures taken and to be taken for its implementation;

52. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the provisions of this resolution are fully implemented by all the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system;

53. Also requests the Secretary-General, after consultations with the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, to present to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session in 1993 an appropriate management process containing clear guidelines, targets, benchmarks and time-frames, for the full implementation of the present resolution;

54. Further requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Council at its substantive sessions in 1993 and 1994 a progress report on the implementation of this resolution, incorporating, inter alia, the reports mentioned in paragraph 53, to be prepared by the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system;

55. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session, through the Economic and Social Council, in the context of the triennial policy review, a comprehensive analysis of the implementation of the present resolution and to make appropriate recommendations.

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EXTERNAL DEBT CRISIS AND DEVELOPMENT

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Jose Lino B. Guerrero (Philippines), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.16

Enhanced international cooperation towards a durable solution to the external debt crisis of developing countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 41/202 of 8 December 1986, 42/198 of 11 December 1987, 43/198 of 20 December 1988, 44/205 of 22 December 1989, 45/214 of 21 December 1990 and 46/148 of 18 December 1991,

Reaffirming also the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, contained in the annex to its resolution S-18/3 of 1 May 1990, the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, contained in the annex to its resolution 45/199 of 21 December 1990, the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, contained in the annex to its resolution 46/151 of 8 December 1991, the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, 1/ the Cartagena Commitment: A New Partnership for

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1/ See Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris, 3-14 September 1990 (A/CONF.147/18), part one.

Development, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its eighth session, and the provisions on a durable solution to the external debt crisis, contained in the relevant chapters of Agenda 21, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 3 to 14 June 1992, 2/

Noting that due to uneven developments, further progress is needed towards the solution of the external debt problems of a large number of developing countries, in the context of the evolving international debt strategy,

Noting also that a few indebted developing countries have regained relative access to international financial markets under the difficulties described in the report of the Secretary-General, 3/

Noting with concern the continuing debt and debt-service problems of lower-middle-income developing countries, which adversely affect their development efforts and economic growth, and reiterating the need to address the continuing debt problems of those countries through effective debt-relief measures, bearing in mind, in this context, the special situation of lower-middle-income and certain middle-income African countries,

Noting also with concern the continuing existence of the heavy debt and debt-service burden of low-income countries,

Noting further with appreciation the recent initiatives towards the solution of the debt problems of some developing countries, inter alia, the adoption by the Paris Club of the "enhanced terms" 4/ and the conclusion of several agreements on commercial debt and debt-service reduction,

Noting the substantial debt relief and debt reduction agreed to by the Paris Club in favour of two middle-income countries,

Stressing the importance of alleviating the debt and debt-service burdens of low- and middle-income developing countries with public debt problems,

Stressing, in this context, the necessity of a supportive international economic environment, including an open and transparent multilateral trading system,

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2/ See A/CONF.151/26 (vols. I, II and Corr.1 and III).

3/ A/47/396.

4/ The "enhanced terms" are the terms offered by the Paris Club for the poorest, most indebted developing countries.

Emphasizing the importance for debtor developing countries to continue to pursue and intensify their efforts in their economic reforms, stabilization and structural adjustment programmes, to raise savings and investment, reduce inflation and improve economic efficiency, taking into account their individual characteristics and the vulnerability of the poorer strata of their populations,

Expressing its concern that, in many developing countries, the burden of debt and debt service constitutes one of the major obstacles to the revitalization of growth and development, despite the often strenuous economic reforms of those countries,

Noting that those developing countries that have continued, at great cost, to meet their international debt and debt-service obligations in a timely fashion have done so despite severe external and domestic financial constraints,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General concerning the external debt crisis and development; 3/

2. Welcomes the conclusion of several agreements on commercial bank debt and debt-service reduction under the evolving international debt strategy and takes note of relevant declarations recognizing the debt problems of some highly indebted lower-middle-income countries, taking into account their special and specific situations; 5/

3. Welcomes the write-off of a significant part of the bilateral official debt by certain donors to the least developed countries, and urges the countries that have not done so to cancel or provide equivalent relief for the official development assistance debt of the least developed countries;

4. Expresses its appreciation for the initiatives taken by developed countries, including recent initiatives to address the debt problems of some middle-income African countries, encourages their application and invites all creditor countries to consider taking relevant measures for middle-income debtor developing countries;

5. Stresses the need for the broadest and the most expeditious implementation of the recent initiatives and for continuing to build upon them, inter alia, in order to prevent the proliferation of debt problems;

6. Also stresses the need for the implementation of additional debt-relief measures, including further cancellation or reduction of debt and debt-service related to official debt, and for more urgent action with regard to remaining commercial debt owed by developing countries;

5/ See A/47/375-S/24429.

7. Recognizes the urgent need to continue to provide a social safety net to vulnerable groups most adversely affected by the implementation of economic reform programmes in the debtor countries, in particular, low-income groups, in order to ensure social and political stability;

8. Emphasizes the importance for developing countries to continue their efforts to promote a favourable environment for attracting foreign investment, thereby promoting economic growth and sustainable development;

9. Recognizes the need of debtor developing countries for a supportive international economic environment as regards, inter alia, terms of trade, commodity prices, improved market access and trade practices and, in this connection, stresses the urgent need for a balanced and successful outcome of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, which would result in the liberalization and expansion of world trade to the benefit of all countries, in particular the developing countries;

10. Reiterates the need for the implementation of initiatives involving developing debtor countries, developed creditor countries, commercial banks and multilateral financial institutions, with a view to easing the debt and debt service burden of severely indebted developing countries which would contribute to recovery, growth and development in developing countries;

11. Stresses the need, in addition to debt-relief measures that include debt and debt-service reduction, for new financial flows to debtor developing countries, and urges the creditor countries and the multilateral financial institutions to continue to extend concessional financial assistance, as appropriate, in order to support the implementation by the developing countries of their economic reforms, stabilization and structural adjustment programmes so as to enable them to extricate themselves from the debt overhang and to assist them in achieving economic growth and development;

12. Urges the international community to consider wider application of innovative measures, such as debt-for-equity swaps, debt-for-nature swaps and debt-for-development swaps;

13. Stresses the need for sustained action in addressing the debt problems of low-income countries and, in this regard, calls for early, expeditious and wide implementation of the enhanced terms currently offered to low-income countries by the Paris Club, as well as, where necessary, their extension;

14. Calls upon private creditors to renew and expand initiatives and efforts in order to tackle the commercial debt problems of low- and middle-income developing countries;

15. Urges creditor countries, private banks and, within their prerogatives, multilateral financial institutions to consider the extension of appropriate new financial support to developing countries, in particular the

low-income countries with substantial debt burdens that continue, at great cost, to service the debt and meet their international obligations;

16. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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EXTERNAL DEBT CRISIS AND DEVELOPMENT

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. José Lino Guerrero (Philippines), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.16

Corrigendum

The document issued under the symbol A/C.2/47/L.93 is hereby withdrawn.

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TRAINING AND RESEARCH: UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.91

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. By operative paragraphs 1 to 3 of draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.91, the General Assembly would:

(a) Decide that, in accordance with the recommendations of the Secretary-General, the building of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research would be immediately transferred to the United Nations in return for the cancellation of the debt of the Institute and coverage of its financial obligations for 1992;

(b) Also decide that, in accordance with the recommendations of the high-level consultant, as approved by the Board of Trustees of the Institute and the Secretary-General in his report, the headquarters of the Institute would be transferred to Geneva, and request the Secretary-General to designate a liaison officer to organize and coordinate the existing training programmes and research activities relating to training in New York within existing resources, drawing as appropriate on the services of senior fellows who should be funded from voluntary contributions to the Institute;

(c) Further decide that, as of 1 January 1993, the funding of all the Institute's administrative budget and training programmes would be covered from voluntary contributions, donations, special-purpose grants and executing agency overheads.

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2. The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) was established in 1965, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1934 (XVIII) of 11 December 1963. The Institute was set up as an autonomous entity within the framework of the United Nations for the purpose of providing research and training for Member States. In accordance with its Statute, UNITAR should be fully financed from extrabudgetary resources. Since its inception, however, the financial situation of the Institute has been the subject of constant concern. By resolution 38/177 of 19 December 1983, the General Assembly provided the Institute with an advance of $886,000 from the regular budget. As at 30 June 1992, the overall debt of UNITAR to the United Nations, reflecting shortfalls and deficits for the previous period, stood at $6,554,700 which, together with the sum advanced by the United Nations for the purchase of land, amounted to $10,970,800 and is expected to reach approximately $11.8 million by the end of 1992.

3. By resolution 45/219 of 21 December 1990, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to appoint a high-level independent consultant, who would submit a report containing recommendations concerning the Institute. The consultant's report (see A/46/482, annex) stated that the mandate of UNITAR remained valid, and contained a number of recommendations on the restructuring of the Institute and the streamlining of its operations.

4. By resolution 46/180 of 19 December 1991, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, on the basis of the recommendations of the high-level consultant, to prepare a report for submission to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session which would, inter alia, propose ways and means of resolving the outstanding debt of the Institute to the United Nations.

5. In his report (A/47/458), the Secretary-General concluded that the best course for resolving the problem of the debt would be for the United Nations to take over the UNITAR building in New York in return for the cancellation of the debt and coverage of the financial obligations in 1992.

B. Financial arrangements and estimated resource requirements in 1992-1993

6. In order to implement the requests contained in the draft resolution, the following arrangements would have to be made.

7. The UNITAR debt to the United Nations, which is to be cancelled in return for the immediate transfer of the building to the United Nations, amounted as at 30 June 1992 to $10,970,800. Of this amount, $4,416,100 was advanced to UNITAR for the purchase of the land on which the building is situated. The balance of $6,554,700 represents advances to UNITAR to meet the shortfalls in its administrative budget. The amount needed to finance UNITAR activities from July to December 1992 is estimated at $851,700. Thus, the debt of UNITAR to be cancelled would be $11,822,500 as at 31 December 1992.

8. For the United Nations to take over the UNITAR building, it would be necessary for the Organization to incur expenses related to the maintenance and provision of security for the premises. Such costs would amount to $647,000 in 1993. Moreover, taking into account the unsafe and unsatisfactory condition of the UNITAR building, it would be necessary for the United Nations to make the necessary repairs and improvements. These costs are estimated at $2,907,000.

9. Furthermore, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 42/197 of 11 December 1987, the existing staff members of the UNITAR New York Office (totalling 10, comprising 1 P-5, 1 P-4, 1 P-2 and 7 General Service) would have to be absorbed within the United Nations system without suffering loss of rank or benefits. There is nothing in the text of the draft resolution which appears to supersede that requirement. As the placement of such staff elsewhere in the system is expected to require at least six months in 1993, the related staff costs are estimated to amount to $300,500.

10. Moreover, during the transitional period of six months, the three Professional and seven General Service staff members referred to in paragraph 9 above would need to be provided in 1993 with office space; this would require an additional $15,500 for rental of office space and $296,500 for general operating costs for six months.

11. With respect to the provision in operative paragraph 2 on the organization and coordination of existing training programmes of UNITAR in New York, which it is requested be covered within existing resources, the Secretary-General confirms that these training programmes could be organized and coordinated by the relevant departments of the United Nations Secretariat. However, as regards the organization and coordination of research activities relating to training in New York, the Secretary-General does not have sufficient information concerning the nature of this function to assess its programme budget implications. As concerns the senior fellows to whom reference is also made in operative paragraph 2, the Secretary-General understands that no provision is to be made from within existing resources for office space or other support services to such fellows, and that any such services which may be required are to be financed by voluntary contributions.

12. It is the understanding of the Secretary-General that, except as indicated above, all future requirements of the Institute, beginning in 1993, would be covered from voluntary contributions, special-purpose grants and executing agency overheads.

13. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.91, the following additional resources, as indicated in paragraphs 7 to 10 above, would be required:

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(a)	Cancellation of the UNITAR debt and coverage of its financial obligations in 1992 (para. 7)	11 822 500
(b)	Annual cost to the United Nations of building maintenance and security (para. 8)	647 000
(c)	Repairs and improvement of the building (para. 8)	2 907 000
(d)	Transitional arrangements from 1 January to 30 June 1993, including the financing of the staff members to be redeployed, rental of office space and general operating expenses for six months in 1993 (paras. 9 and 10)	612 500
	Total	15 989 000

14. Taking into account the extraordinary nature of these developments, which could not have been foreseen when the level and the use of the contingency fund for the 1992-1993 biennium were established, the Secretary-General considers that the additional requirements should be met outside the contingency fund in accordance with the criteria adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 42/211 of 21 December 1987.

C. Summary

15. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.91, an additional appropriation in the amount of $15,989,000 would be required under section 34 (Special expenses) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.